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THE

New York Industrial Exhibition,

ITS

PLANS, PURPOSES AND PROSPECTS.

1870.

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FORT NEW AMSTERDAM




(NEW YORK), 1651.

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SKETCHES

OF PAST

Industrial Exhibitions,

WITH REFERENCE TO THE

PERPETUAL EXHIBITION,

TO BE HELD BY THE

New York Industrial Company.

NEW YORK:

J. O. SEYMOUR, KENNARD & HAY, PRINTERS, 89 LIBERTY STREET.

1870.

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Industrial Exhibitions.

Competitive exhibitions are as old as the world. The savage delights in exhibiting his prowess over his fellows in the hunt or on the war path, and his string of human scalps are, to him, so many medals of honor entitling him to superior distinction in the lodge or the tribe. In the barbarous ages, kings and rulers strove to outwit their rivals in strategy, and to outshine them in the rude splendor of their imperial dwellings and retinues. The tournaments of the days of chivalry were competitions for the rewards awaiting the victorious knights. The fierce wars of modern times have been so many exhibitions of valor, strength and skill, of which the prizes were personal, political or territorial supremacy.

“Peace hath her victories, no less renowned than war,”

and they have been achieved in friendly rivalry of agriculture, arts and science. The importance of an improved development of human industry and invention has led to village fairs, to agricultural shows, to machinery trials, and, upon a grander scale, to those national and international exhibitions which have attracted the attention of the civilized world. Looking only to the consideration of those which have aspired to belong to the latter class, we find that as early as 1756, the British Society of Arts offered prizes for improvements in tapestry, in carpets, porcelain, agriculture and other mechanical inventions. The number of these increasing, the Society, in 1761, found it necessary to employ

a gentleman to devote his time to explaining to visitors and inventors the nature and utility of the articles entered for competition. From that time to the present there have been numerous industrial exhibitions, the more prominent of which are noted below.

EARLY EUROPEAN EXHIBITIONS.

We have mentioned the pioneer of English exhibitions of industry and invention. The British Society of Arts has steadily fostered mechanical and scientific improvements. Many minor exhibitions were held subsequently to those of 1756—61, but the first movement toward a national enterprise appears to have been in 1828, when King George IV. was largely instrumental in opening an exhibition, which it was proposed to continue annually, under the ponderous title of "A National Repository for the Exhibition of Specimens of New and Improved Productions of the Artisans and Manufacturers of the United Kingdom, at Kings Mews, Charing Cross." The plan was not well supported by the public, its title being not the least ridiculed point about it, but through the strenuous efforts of the king and a few co-laborers, it was kept up for four years, after which it was heard of no more.

In 1850 an exhibition was held in Dublin, under the auspices of the Royal Society of that city (it being the first of the Royal Society's fairs, at which other than Irish productions were admitted), and several similar ones were held in Manchester, Leeds, and other cities.

In 1853 a more extensive exhibition was held in Dublin, being international in its character. Ten thousand spectators were present at the opening, on May 12th. The number of season tickets sold was 366,745, and of daily visitors 634,523, the receipts being £47,363. The building, a series of parallel halls, cost £80,000. The lowest rate of

admission was sixpence, and the success of the project was entirely satisfactory.

In 1852, an exhibition was held in Cork, at which the number of daily visitors was 74,095, and the receipts £4,419.

Meantime, many exhibitions, more or less general in their character, had been held upon the European Continent. The pioneer of these was conceived and carried out in 1797-8, in France, by Marquis d'Avize, who had had a supervision of several branches of national manufactures. The return of Napoleon from the Italian wars was made the occasion for the first official Exposition in the "Temple of Industry," in the Champs de Mars. In 1801 the second Official Exposition was held while Napoleon was First Consul; on this occasion Jacquard was awarded a bronze medal for the looms which have since made his name a household word in manufactures. The third Exposition was held in 1802, the fourth in 1806, the fifth in 1819 (when seventeen Crosses of the Legion of Honor were awarded, together with 360 medals), the sixth in 1823 (open for fifty days, and 1,091 prizes were awarded), the seventh in 1827, in the interior of the great Court of the Louvre, the eighth in 1834, with 2,447 exhibitors, the ninth in 1839, in the Champs Elysees, with 4,381 exhibitors, the tenth in 1844, when 3,690 manufacturers competed, the eleventh in 1849, the twelfth in 1855, and the thirteenth in 1857. Of the last, we shall speak more in detail elsewhere. That of 1849 was upon a larger scale than its predecessors, and was the first at which live stock and agricultural implements were allowed to compete for prizes. The building was 675 feet long by 328 wide, besides a vast shed for agricultural and horticultural productions. The cost of the building was about \$90,000, this being paid simply for the use of the material, all of which reverted to the contractor, at the end of the exhibition. The public were admitted

gratuitously on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 11 o'clock, A. M., to 5 P. M. On Thursdays, from 9 to 5, there was admission for all who were willing to pay one franc, which went to the poor of Paris. There was much criticism upon the plan of the building, it being so miscon-structed that not more than one-fourth of the interior could be seen from any one point, and Sir Digby Wyatt, in a report to the British Society of Art, says that "a system of *sham* seemed to preside over all construction and ornament," cornices being of plaster made to represent carving, fir beams being covered with paper to make them look like oak, etc.

At the Exposition of 1855, there were 20,859 exhibitors. This was held in the *Palace de Industrie*, and was open to all nations. The Exposition was inaugurated May 15th, and was open 198 days, the average number of daily visitors being 22,000. At the close of the Exposition, the building was purchased by the Government, and is now used for agricultural shows, &c.

To King Ludwig, of Bavaria, is due the honor of first establishing a *permanent* national exhibition. In 1845, this was opened in a handsomely constructed and decorated edifice, about 1,000 exhibitors competing in that year.

An exhibition was held in Brussels in 1847. None of the public halls being large enough for the purpose, the *Nouvel Entrepot*, a commercial edifice, was employed. The display of the special products of Belgium was very fine; Brussels lace, valued at 2,500 francs per pound, and handkerchiefs worth £200 each, being examples. National Fairs were held in Ghent in 1820, in Tournai in 1824, in Haarlem in 1825, and in Brussels in 1830.

In 1854, an exhibition for products of Germany alone was held in Munich, while similar ones had previously been held in Leipsic, Frankfort on the Oder, and Frankfort on the Maine.

National Fairs were held in Spain in 1827, 1828, 1831, 1841 and 1845, each of which had an average of about 300 exhibitors.

THE WORLD'S FAIR OF 1851.

All of these exhibitions sink into insignificance when compared with the grand International Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations, held in London in 1851. This mammoth enterprise, unprecedented in its extent and its success, deserves somewhat detailed notice.

At a meeting of the British Society of Arts, held June 15, 1849, Prince Albert suggested the idea of a universal exhibition, to which competitors from all nations should be admitted. The Society heartily concurred in the proposal, and at once took measures for carrying it into effect. Personal communications were addressed to the heads of leading industrial establishments, asking their co-operation. The Society appropriated £20,000 to be expended in prizes and medals, and voluntary subscriptions were called for to defray necessary expenses. The firm of James & George Munday agreed to erect the necessary buildings, advance what funds were needed, and be repaid by a proportion of the profits, to be decided by arbitration at the close of the exhibition. A Royal Commission having been appointed to have general management of the enterprise, the Commissioners decided to decline the offer of the Messrs. Munday, and threw the whole burden of the expense and risk upon voluntary subscriptions. Many leading men and houses subscribed liberally, Sir Morton Peto being one of the leading subscribers. The total amount of subscriptions was £79,224 13s. 6d., of which £67,896 12s. 9d. were actually paid in. The Commissioners soon found that it would be desirable to obtain an Act of Incorporation, which Parliament granted, and the Bank of England then advanced

to the Company £32,500, which was subsequently repaid out of the receipts of the first three weeks.

In preparing for the transaction of business, the Commissioners appointed sub-committees, including men of eminence in the several departments. The contract for the building was awarded to Sir James Paxton, at an estimated cost of £79,800, to which £35,000 were subsequently added in payment for changes and for the increased expense incurred by reason of the haste with which the building was constructed. The first column was fixed September 26, 1850, and the whole was complete for opening, May 1, 1851. The area of the original building was 800,000 feet, to which about 200,000 feet were added by enlargements. More than 2,000 mechanics were employed in the work. The building was 1,848 feet by 408 feet, with a projection 936 feet by 48 feet, making the total area roofed over about 19 acres. Seven hundred tons of wrought iron, 3,800 tons of cast iron, and 600,000 feet of timber were used in the work.

The receipt of goods began February 12, 1851. At the opening ceremonies, May 1, 25,000 spectators were present. The Exhibition continued 141 days, finally closing October 15th. The total number of visits were 6,039,135, the average daily attendance being 42,831. † On three days of the closing week the number of visitors was 107,815, 109,760 and 109,915, respectively, 93,224 having been in the building at once on October 7th. The total receipts were £506,100 6s. 11d., and the net profits, after all accounts were closed, were about £176,000, or nearly a million dollars, which were devoted to the founding of an Industrial College. Twenty-five thousand six hundred and five season tickets were sold. No rent was charged for exhibiting goods, and the valuation of property exhibited was about £2,000,000. The population of London was, at that time, about 2,300,000.

THE NEW YORK CRYSTAL PALACE.

The splendid success of the London Exhibition stimulated efforts toward several similar ones in other countries. There was a prevalent feeling that in the Exhibition of 1851 the United States had not done justice to herself—that the immense resources of this country should have some more satisfactory exposition, which could best be attained by an exhibition in our leading city ; and, moreover, as this country was an enormous and increasing purchaser of the choicest fabrics of the old world, that an opportunity to place their goods before vastly more Americans than could attend the London World's Fair would be gladly made use of by the manufacturers and inventors of foreign nations. An effort was accordingly made, early in 1852, to organize an international exhibition, to be held in New York in the following year.

The municipal authorities of New York granted a five years' lease of Reservoir Square, upon two conditions : that the building should be of glass and iron, and that no more than fifty cents should be charged for admission. A Charter for the " Association for the Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations," was granted by the Legislature upon the 11th of March, 1862, authorizing the association to issue stock to the amount of a half million dollars. Upon the 17th of March, an organization was effected, THEODORE SEDGWICK, Esq., being elected President. Subscriptions to stock were rapidly made. The Secretary of State urged the importance of the scheme upon the representatives of our Government to foreign countries, and the resident Ministers of foreign powers responded cordially to the letters addressed to them, soliciting their influence in securing the co-operation of European nations.

A plan for an exhibition building was presented by Sir Joseph Paxton, the architect of the London Crystal Palace,

* 11th of March, 1862, above—should read March 11th, 1852.

but the contract was finally awarded to Messrs. Carstensen & Gildermeister, architects; \$175,000 being appropriated for the purpose. The edifice was constructed in the form of a Greek cross, the length of each diameter being 365 feet 5 inches, and the width of the arms 149 feet 5 inches. The dome over the intersection of the arms was 100 feet in diameter, the height to the spring line being 70 feet, and to the crown of the arch 123 feet. Thirty-two ornamented windows of stained glass, representing the arms of the Union and of the several States, gave light and beauty to the interior of the dome. The building was mainly of iron and glass. The contract for construction was signed August 26th, 1852, and the first column raised October 30th. The exhibition was first expected to be opened May 1st, 1853, but various causes so delayed it that the official opening did not take place until July 14th. An addition to the building, 451 feet 5 inches long and 75 feet wide, for the reception of machinery in motion, refreshment saloons, etc., was added to the original plan. Eighteen hundred tons of iron were employed in the construction, with 55,000 square feet of glass and 750,000 feet of timber. The total area of the building was 249,691 feet, or $5\frac{3}{4}$ acres. The President of the United States and a large number of eminent officials of this and foreign countries were present at the opening. Many of the goods designed for exhibition were not in place until late in the summer. The price of season tickets was \$10; of single tickets, 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children, and of tickets good for two months, \$5. The season tickets sold up to the third day of the exhibition, amounted to \$30,060. The goods were admitted to the building free of duty. After September 2d, the Exhibition was opened from 7 to 10 p.m. The Exhibition was not a very great financial success, the building having been destroyed by fire. The shares (par value \$100,) at one time rose to \$175.

THE SUYDENHAM PALACE.

No one of the many places of interest in and about London is more attractive than the Suydenham Crystal Palace, at Penge Park, near Suydenham. It is distant about six miles from London, hourly trains (from London Bridge,) taking the visitor to the Palace Grounds in fifteen minutes. This Palace is the sequel to the Crystal Palace of 1851, in Hyde Park. At the close of that Exhibition, a company of influential gentlemen was formed with a view of purchasing the Hyde Park building and establishing it permanently in some convenient locality. About three hundred acres of land were secured, as above noted, the price paid for the land alone being greater than the cost of the Hyde Park building. The Company has a paid-up capital of £800,000 or \$4,000,000. Thither the great Crystal Palace was removed and re-constructed in a slightly modified form. In place of the original nearly flat roof, a curved roof was put on, and the length of the building diminished from 1,848 to 1,500 feet. No expense or labor was spared to make the building all that could be desired. One million dollars were spent for hydraulic arrangements alone. The grounds were laid out with great skill and taste,—with groves, streams, fountains, and all that can add beauty to the scene. A part of the building was subsequently destroyed by fire, but enough remains to bewilder the visitor by the multitude of artistic charms. In the edifice, there are Roman, Grecian, Assyrian, Italian and German Courts, devoted not only to exhibition of the rarest artistic productions of those countries, but to a valuable exposition of the architecture prevailing in or emanating from those nations. Sixty thousand pounds were devoted to models and copies of the most noted statues and groups of ancient Greece and Rome. Twenty-five thousand pounds were paid for the Luddiges collection of exotics. Upon such a liberal scale has the

enterprise been fostered and its attractions sustained. The whole has been enlivened by daily concerts by a band which has thus made itself famous, while notable dramatic performances and other great public gatherings have found here the best place for their celebration. Audiences of thirty thousand persons have frequently listened here to concerts by three thousand children, and upon special fete occasions there have been as many as sixty-five thousand persons present.

Excursion tickets from London, including admission to the Palace, are issued at 2s. 6d. and 2s. for first and second class, respectively.

THE PARIS EXPOSITION OF 1867.

On the first of April, 1867, the Thirteenth Official Exposition was opened in the Champs de Mars. The building erected for the purpose was radically different from any that had been previously designed for similar objects. It was elliptical in form, arranged with a series of aisles running entirely around the structure, with transverse passages from the centre to the circumference, cutting the aisles at right angles. The remark attributed to the Emperor, that it was "a huge gasometer," was a terse description of the general effect of this method of construction. The spaces between the transverse passages were assigned to the various nations exhibiting, the design being that in each of these spaces a certain class of goods should occupy the place nearest to the centre, another class the next outward position, and so on, so that a visitor passing through any one of the aisles from the entrance around the building, back to the place of beginning, would, in this walk, see only the same general class of goods, as shown by the different nations. The building was devoid of beauty, whatever imposing effect it had being due to its immensity. The Champs de Mars contains about

100 acres, of which about 35 acres were covered by the Exposition building, which was 1,500 feet by 1,250. The credit of the plan, it is said, should be divided between the Emperor, Prince Napoleon, the Baron Haussman and Mons. Le Play.

At the opening, April 1st, everything was confusion, and the Exposition was almost universally considered a great failure. But a month's energetic effort so changed the general aspect, that on the first of May public opinion was as unanimous in declaring it a great success. The Exposition was financially successful, and brilliant in the extreme, nearly all the crowned heads of Europe taking the occasion to pay royal visits to the French capital, where they were imperially entertained. The Exposition finally closed, Nov. 17th, 231 days from its opening.

Growth of New York and its Surroundings.

Nearly twenty years have passed since the New York Crystal Palace stood in Reservoir Square. It is superfluous to say that the Empire City has wonderfully changed and grown within that time. Streets have been opened and rapidly built up upon the upper part of Manhattan Island; trade has crowded upon residences, until the best streets below Union Square are given up to traffic; the Central Park has been laid out and made the people's play ground; other places, which were parks at that day, are now covered with warehouses; what was then "up town" has become "down town;" the population of the city has increased from 515,394, in 1850, to about 1,000,000, in 1870; the valuation of property in the city is \$1,000,000,000, against \$351,768,426, in 1852. In 1853, Twenty-third street was virtually the head of Fifth avenue; the map of the city showed the "Bloomingdale Road" as beginning at Madison

Square; the Second Avenue Street Railroad ran only to Forty-second Street, the Third Avenue Cars to Sixty-first, the Sixth Avenue to Forty-fourth, and the Eighth Avenue to Fifty-ninth. The passengers by the Camden and Amboy Railroad took boat to South Amboy and thence to Philadelphia by rail; those for the Erie Road were carried by boat to Piermont, which was the eastern terminus of the road, and travelers by the New Haven Railroad started from 29 Canal Street. Mayor WESTERVELT, in his annual message, January 1, 1854, deprecated the proposal to take 600 acres between Fifty-ninth and One Hundred and Sixth Streets and Fifth and Eighth Avenues for a grand Central Park, as "an area, in my judgment, vastly more extensive than is required for the purpose. * * * Many years must elapse before our citizens can derive any of the benefits which it was anticipated by the friends of the measure would result from the enactment" of the legislative authority. The telegraph cable had not been laid across the North River, and California news was a month in reaching New York.

Business enterprise has changed all this. The site of the old Crystal Palace was then away out of town; now it is in the heart of the city. Seventeen city railroad lines carry their tens of thousands daily. Nearly one hundred million persons cross our ferries yearly, to homes in New Jersey and on Long Island. Over three hundred trains per day upon the railroads centering here, arrive loaded with passengers, which, allowing five cars to a train, can bring to and carry away from this city ninety thousand persons per day. Burton's Theatre has been converted into a court house; the Broadway Theatre has been leveled, in obedience to the insatiable demands of trade. Hundreds of suburban towns have sprung into being, and grown rapidly into prosperity. The metropolis is no longer confined to Manhattan Island, but embraces the whole country for fifty miles around.

The demands for education as well as amusement have increased in corresponding ratio. Churches, schools and theatres have increased in numbers and in strength. That the people cordially support properly founded and ably conducted places for refined entertainment, such structures as the Young Men's Christian Association Building, Booth's Theatre, the Academy of Design, and others, testify. It is not New York alone, large as it is, which supports such enterprises. This city is the adopted representative of the whole United States. In the pursuit of pleasure, we, as a people, are more liberal than the Parisians themselves. Notwithstanding all that has been or may be said of the superior art culture of European capitals, it is a fact that, as a nation, America is more liberal in the support of what is worthy than any other country, while the vast scale upon which our agricultural and manufacturing development is conducted, render us most peculiarly hearty in welcoming and adopting useful inventions. Moreover, our imports of foreign goods yearly increase in quantity and value. The United States is at once the harvest field and the customer of the world.

The Proposed Industrial Exhibition.

The foregoing facts, and others of a similar nature, manifest to all who examine the subject, have led to a desire to establish, in New York, an International Industrial Exhibition, which shall be an illustration of our mechanical and artistic development, and a bazar wherein the industry of America and the world may be brought into profitable competition. A few public spirited gentlemen, acting upon this theory, obtained from the New York Legislature of 1870 the following Charter, under which it is proposed to establish an enterprise which will be an honor to our city and country.

CHARTER.

AN ACT to Incorporate the "Industrial Exhibition Company," and to authorize said Company to purchase real estate, and to erect thereon a building or buildings which shall be used as an Industrial Exhibition.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION I.— * * * their associates, successors and assigns shall be, and they are hereby declared and created a body corporate and politic, by the name and style of the INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION COMPANY, and by that name shall have succession, and all the powers and privileges conferred upon a corporation created under an Act of the Legislature of the State of New York, entitled "An Act to authorize the formation of Corporations for Manufacturing, Mining, Mechanical or Chemical Purposes," passed February seventeen, eighteen hundred and forty-eight; and the several Acts extending and amending said Acts, are hereby granted to said Industrial Exhibition Company; and said Corporation shall be subject to all the duties, obligations and liabilities prescribed by said Act, and the Acts amendatory thereof, except as hereinafter provided.

SECTION II.—The Capital Stock of said Company shall be two million dollars, to be divided into twenty thousand shares of one hundred dollars each, but it shall be lawful for the board of directors of said Company, by the vote of two-thirds of the members thereof, to increase the same to seven millions. It shall not commence business until at least one million of the stock shall be subscribed for, and twenty per cent. thereof, or a sum equal to that amount, actually paid in.

SECTION III.—All the affairs of said Corporation shall be managed by a Board of not more than fifty-two Directors, who shall, except as hereinafter provided, be annually elected by the Stockholders.

SECTION IV.—The said Corporation is hereby authorized to purchase and hold such real estate as may be necessary

and to construct thereon such buildings as may be necessary for the maintenance and carrying on of the business of exhibiting the products, goods, wares and merchandise, machinery, mechanical inventions and improvements of every nature, name and kind, and such as are usually exhibited at fairs, and to award and pay to exhibitors therein such prizes and medals, and honorary distinctions, as they shall deem proper; and to lease, let, or own stalls, stands, rooms and places in said building or buildings, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors shall deem best for the interests of said Company, and for the promotion of Science, Art, Commerce and Literature. And the said Company is hereby further authorized to construct studios and picture galleries, and to exhibit therein paintings and statuary of any nature and kind, and to buy and sell such paintings and statuary, and to award such prizes for the creation of the same as such Board of Directors may deem proper; and generally, said corporation shall have power to carry on in its said buildings, erected for the purposes hereinbefore mentioned, all legal and proper business. And said Corporation is hereby further authorized to purchase and hold, by gift, subject to all provisions of law relating to devises and bequest by last will and testament, grant, lease or conveyance, any real estate, or interest therein, which shall be necessary or useful for carrying on the business hereby authorized to be carried on by said Corporation.

SECTION V.—Said Company is hereby authorized and fully empowered, in its corporate capacity, to borrow any sums of money from any person or persons, corporation or body politic, of any kind, for any rate of interest which may be agreed upon by and between said Company and any person or party of whom said money may be obtained; and to make, execute and deliver all necessary writings, notes, bonds, mortgages, or other papers and securities in amount and kind which may be deemed expedient by said Corporation, in consideration of any such loan, or in discharge of any liabilities that it may incur in the purchase of its said real estate, or in the construction of its said buildings, and in carrying on of its said business; and the power of said Corporation for all purposes necessary to carry out the object of said Company are hereby ratified and confirmed, and the

contracts and official acts of said Company declared binding in law and equity upon said Corporation, and upon all the parties to such contracts.

SECTION VI.—The first fifty-two persons named in this Act shall constitute the first Board of Directors, and shall have the power to name a Board of Regents not to exceed in numbers (10) ten for each State or Territory in the United States; and also a Board of Regents for other Countries that may propose to exhibit wares in such building, the Regents to hold office at pleasure of the Board; and these first fifty-two Corporators shall constitute the first Board of Directors, until the Capital Stock of said Company shall have been subscribed for and paid in in full, and the said building shall have been constructed; after which time, said Directors shall be annually elected by the Stockholders, as prescribed in said Act, entitled “An Act to authorize the formation of Corporations for Manufacturing, Mining, Mechanical or Chemical Purposes,” passed February seventeenth, eighteen hundred and forty-eight; and in case of a vacancy in the said first Board of Directors, occasioned by death, resignation or otherwise, the persons remaining in said Board shall have power to fill such vacancy by appointment.

SECTION VII.—The first Board of Directors shall have power to elect such officers as they may deem advisable, who shall hold their respective offices during the existence of the first Board of Directors, unless vacancy is caused by their own act. After this Act becomes a law, any five of the herein named Directors may, by signing a call and publishing such call in a daily paper for twenty consecutive days, and by mailing a printed notice to each of the Directors herein named, twenty days prior to the time of such meeting, convene the Board; and if there are present at such meeting thirteen of the herein named Directors, they may proceed to elect such officers as shall be necessary, and to adopt a set of By-laws.

SECTION VIII.—The building to be erected shall be fire-proof.

SECTION IX.—Persons subscribing to the Stock of this Company or being Directors, shall incur no personal liabilities beyond the amount of the capital stock held and owned by them respectively.

SECTION X.—The Corporation hereby created shall possess all the powers and be subject to the provisions of title third of Chapter 18 of Part 1, of the Revised Statutes.

SECTION XI.—This Act shall take effect immediately.

MAGNITUDE OF THE WORK.

It will be seen that the charter gives liberal authority, and that, if the Directors carry out in full the authority thus given them, they will have a greater work upon their hands than has ever before been attempted for a similar purpose. All previous international exhibitions have been temporary in their character; this is designed to be permanent. The greater part of the large capital has already been subscribed, and much preliminary work is being done. It is proposed to combine all the best features of past great exhibitions, and to do all upon a liberal scale. The edifice to be erected will be, in itself, an exposition of art in architecture; there will be galleries of painting and statuary; agricultural and horticultural departments, where notable products will always find opportunity for exhibition and competition; mechanical and scientific departments, where inventions of new motive powers or new applications of those already in use, will receive critical and intelligent examination and verdict; commercial departments, where the various products of domestic and foreign industry may have opportunity for beneficial exchange; conservatories of native and foreign plants, flowers and fruits; courses of literary, scientific and useful philosophical lectures; one or more immense halls for

grand concerts or occasions of other great public gatherings; cabinets of minerals, shells and fossils, and whatever else may be needed to make up the most complete industrial exhibition of ancient or modern times. To do all this, and to do it well, will require extraordinary skill and energy. No half-way work will answer the needs of the city and country, or prove remunerative to those who embark in the enterprise. The public will, it is believed, give generous support to anything that is liberally and wisely founded and energetically and judiciously conducted.

Beside all labor incident to organizing and conducting the exhibition itself, as such, there will need to be very careful consideration of the arrangements for minutely and impartially examining all articles in competition, and deciding upon their proper comparative merit. The selection of juries upon the different classes of goods, will be not the least of the arduous duties of the directors of the enterprise. It is intended that this shall be done with the utmost care, and a due consideration for the best interests of all concerned.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES OF NEW YORK.

Granting that America is large enough, rich enough and ambitious enough to make such an exhibition a national enterprise, to be nationally supported, what is the best point for its location? In discussing this question, reference must be had, not to geographical or political lines, but to commercial and manufacturing considerations. If a solely agricultural display was proposed, the West would have strong claim to its possession. If a purely manufacturing exhibition was the object, New England would justly claim pre-eminence. If the design was simply to enhance our national glory, and no question of dollars and cents was permitted to enter, then the Washingtonians would have a clear field against all competitors, and another Smithsonian Institute, larger and finer than even that creditable institution, would

be added to the white marble structures which fill up the measure of the sights of our national capital. If an illustration of our mineral wealth was the object to be attained, then Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Cleveland and Marquette might fight out the question of location among themselves; or if a place of summer resort was alone sought, Lake George, Newport, Saratoga and Long Branch could put in their several powerful claims. But no one of these comprises the design. It is, rather, the intention to combine all these, and more. And for the accomplishment of the actual comprehensive plan, there is no place so favorable as New York.

We have, at hand, a city of a million inhabitants, with other millions within one hour's ride. We have quick access to all parts of our vast and growing country, by rail and boat. We are in daily communication with the chief shipping ports of Western Europe, and nearly all foreign transportation of goods or persons passes through New York Bay. In the matter of accommodation for the throng of visitors to such an exhibition, and of administering to their material and mental wants, no city in the land can compare with this. Our hotel accommodations are far in advance of those of London or Paris; the amount and variety of natural scenery or of seaside enjoyment, within easy reach, is equally superior. No other city in all this growing country presents to the foreign visitor so energetic and striking phases of live Americanism as this. In fashionable display we are not outdone by the gayest of European capitals, and in the sturdy and industrious walks of life, no other city exceeds us. When another half century has been added to American growth, one of the great inland cities, like Chicago or St. Louis, may, perhaps, have just claim to be the best place at which to exhibit the products of *American* industry; but now, and for many years to come, New York is, unquestionably, the most accessible and the most favorable

place in which to collect the evidences of the educated labor of the civilized world.

ESTIMATES OF BUSINESS.

Calculations in advance are necessarily imperfect. The Commissioners for the World's Fair of 1851, hoped to receive patronage enough to repay the liabilities incurred in the erection of the building—about \$400,000—and the operating expenses. They met with most unexpected and triumphant success, the receipts for 141 days, being, as we have previously noted, more than \$2,500,000, an average of more than *seventeen thousand dollars per day*. The average of visitors was more than forty-two thousand per day. Twenty, thirty, and forty thousand per day are seen at the Suydenham Palace. Twenty-two thousand per day was the average for 198 days at the Palace de Industrie of 1855. The Exposition in 1867 numbered its daily visitors by tens of thousands. Even the New York Exhibition of 1853, in a location not then easily accessible, was visited by thousands every day. New York, in 1872, with the whole country looking to it as the Mecca of their amusement and recreation, should do as well, continually, as London did in 1851. The facilities of travel, in our country, are greater than they were then in England; our people spend money more liberally than ever their European cousins did; more people will come from England to attend this Industrial Exhibition than went from America to London; the hundreds of thousands of emigrants who annually arrive upon our shores will, of themselves, make up a profitable attendance upon the Exhibition which places before their eyes the familiar forms of the productions of their native lands; as our commerce grows with our population and wealth, our merchants will throng the exhibition halls to see what new fabrics are being prepared for their customers; foreign producers and their American agents will find this the best place for

effecting advantageous sales through a proper display of the articles which they have for sale; the giant farmers of the Illinois prairies, or the Platte Valley, will keep watch of the exhibition rooms to see what new helps machinery is giving them for the tillage of their broad fields; the man of science, the artist, and the artisan, will each find here a working model of the industrial and artistic world; while the whole population, permanent or transient, will delight in an ever changing and increasing museum of wonders and delightful surprises. Who has ever tired of visiting the Central Park? and yet the Park is limited in its range of attractions, and is shorn of its chief beauty during all the winter months. When the Industrial Exhibition building offers through every month and day of the successive years, a perpetually blooming garden, and a collection of statuary and of architectural devices more full and interesting than even Central Park can boast, and to these delights adds all the other solid attractions which have been hinted at above, the whole made doubly desirable by daily concerts of the choicest vocal and instrumental music, it is fair to presume that the tide of visitors, including representatives of all the civilized nations under the sun, will be as unceasing as that which now crowds the entrance to the People's Play Ground.

LOCATION, &c.

Of course, much of the success of the enterprise will depend upon wisdom in selecting its site. It is impossible at this early date, to determine where that will be. It should be as near the heart of the city as it is possible, to find ample space and appropriate surroundings. To place it where it could only be reached by tedious or disagreeable journeying, would at once prevent its enjoyment by the masses of the people, or a remunerative return for the outlay of the company. Various sites have been suggested

and their claims urged upon the directors,—Long Island, Staten Island, New Jersey, and Westchester County, have been under consideration, while leading citizens have protested against any removal of the exhibition outside of the limits of the city itself, asserting that either in Central Park or in some other of the public parks can the necessities of the case best be met. Accessibility, pleasantness of surroundings, and availability through the winter as well as summer, will be the main features which must pertain to whatever location may finally be determined upon.

The advantages of Madison Square for the Exhibition building, are being urged by many citizens. Upon this point, the *New York Tribune* says:

"The excellent neighborhood, the fine hotels convenient, and its accessibility from all parts of the City, make the square a most eligible spot. It is no part of the plan to remove the trees and grass plots; the former are to be retained, and the latter will be much improved."

The *Evening Post* says of this location:

"This place is easy of access from all points in the City, is in a fashionable neighborhood, and will at once determine, in a great measure, the character of the enterprise."

The *New York Standard* says:

"All things considered, we know of no place so well adapted for the building as Madison Square. * * The location is the best in the City, as it has handsome surroundings, the hotels in the vicinity are numerous, and it is easy of access. We cannot see any objection to this adaptation of Madison Square. It will have ten fold more attractions for refined people than now. * * * The public should take an interest in this matter, because it benefits them more than it does any one else."

The *Commercial Advertiser* says:

"The advantages of the site are many, and the promoters of the project assert that if they obtain it, they will add largely to its attractions."

The *Express* says:

"* * New York City, the Metropolis of the land, is the most appropriate place in which to erect the building. To secure the sufficient amount of ground, it would be requisite to build upon one of the Parks of the City, and no one is better calculated for the purpose than Madison Square."

Manifestly, many of the details of the exhibition, such as terms of admission, rent or sales of spaces for exhibition or sale, the exact kind or number of prizes to be awarded, the

division into classes of articles entered, &c., cannot yet be announced. The organization of the company was only effected upon the 12th of May, 1870, and there is a vast amount of labor to be performed before any minute description of the plan can be given. The plan of the building, itself, cannot be determined upon until the ground for its erection has been obtained, in order that the architects may secure a proper harmony between the structure and its surroundings.

In considering the probable financial success of the exhibition, it may be of interest to see what expenditures were incurred by the visitors to the London Fair of 1851. The entrance fee upon certain specified days, was one pound, five shillings, two shillings and sixpence, and one shilling, respectively. The average amount expended by each visitor, for entrance, purchases of catalogues, refreshments, deposit of umbrellas and parcels, and purchase of souvenir medals, was as follows:

On days when entrance was	£1	-	-	-	20s.	7d.
"	"	"	5s.	-	-	5s. 5d.
"	"	"	2s.	6d.	-	3s. 0d.
"	"	"	1s.	-	-	1s. 3d.

The receipts of the London Exhibition were at the rate of more than five million dollars per annum. New York and its suburbs has a population equal to that of London in 1851; it has a vastly greater country of which it is the metropolis; its means of communication, by sea and land, are greatly superior; it has more and better hotel accommodation for strangers; and the American people are more liberal in their expenditures for amusement and instruction than those of England.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPANY.

At a meeting held at 49 Wall Street, May 12th, 1870, E. McMURDY was elected President of the Company;

JOSEPH S. DECKER, Vice-President, and JAMES TURNER (of Turner Brothers, Bankers), Treasurer. A committee to report upon a site for the building was appointed; the first assessment of the capital stock was paid in, and other preliminary business transacted. The names of the Directors and of such other officers as shall be appointed, will soon be published. The Company is fairly under way, and we shall be able to report rapid progress during the season. It is expected that the Exhibition will be opened in the Spring of 1872, it being impossible to erect such a building as the Directors contemplate, in season for opening in 1871.

Opinions of the Press.

The leading newspapers of New York, appreciating the importance of this great enterprise to this city and the whole country, and the influence it must have in stimulating art and industry, have cordially commended the plan in their columns. Some of these articles we quote below:

[From the New York Herald, May 8, 1870.]

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

AMUSEMENTS OF THE PEOPLE—A SUYDENHAM PALACE FOR NEW YORK
—WHAT IS PROPOSED TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT.

It is no new thing to say that people must have amusement. A problem most difficult of solution, frequently presented to despotic rulers in the States of Europe, is, how to afford rational amusement to the middle and lower classes at a cheap rate, which, while being harmless in its character, will serve to elevate the standard of popular taste and thereby improve the people. Our citizens resent such governmental interference; but as it is a characteristic of men prejudiced against a system to reject anything, good as well as evil, connected therewith, the many excellent points in the local governments of European countries are altogether discarded by us. We are making rapid strides in advance, however, and are beginning to understand that everything not purely native in its origin is not necessarily unworthy of imitation.

The people will seek amusement, and from the humanitarian endeavor to properly guide this universal desire come our Academies of Design, our Young Men's Christian Associations and our Park. It is not easy to estimate the good which has been done by the last, or by the establishment of such meritorious institutions as the Suydenham Palace or the Kensington Gardens to a great city like London. How many young men have spent there the shillings and the hours they might otherwise have

given to wine and lewd women? How many young women have found, in the entertainments there obtained, that relaxation and stimulus, the physical and mental needs of which might otherwise have sent them to the bad? Louis Napoleon keeps the Tuileries by giving the people free theatres; the English Government has made no more effective provision for the prevention of crime and the preservation of public order than by its purchases for the Kensington Museum.

[After a description of the Suydenham Palace, the *Herald* adds:]

Something of this sort we want in New York. What have we, except the Park, for general amusement and recreation? Theatres, like churches, are for mental instruction and entertainment, but they are no places for young children, nor for the laboring classes, who cannot afford the necessary expenditure. Take away the Park, and what remains? Absolutely nothing that can be recommended as a place of popular resort. But the Park, beautiful and tasteful as it is, is not complete. As a playground, a drive, a promenade and a place for out-door concerts, it is all that can be desired, but it by no means gives New York what the Suydenham Palace and grounds are to London. Moreover, for four months in the year the Park is brown and sere, and the bleak winds sweep the Mall and the Terrace.

We need for New York an institution where a magnificent edifice, in the midst of elegant surroundings, shall combine within itself all forms of reasonable entertainment and give a perpetual stimulus to art and invention. It should have galleries of the choicest paintings and statuary; a museum of all that is rare and curious in art, science and manufactures; a bureau where may be placed on exhibition and sale every new invention which Brother Jonathan or any of his friends from over the sea may devise; a mechanical workshop, where every variety of the application of steam, electricity or other motive power may be seen in constant practical illustration; agricultural and horticultural departments, where all attainable products of our own or other countries may be kept on exhibition, with persons in charge who can intelligently answer all the multifarious questions which visitors, especially from the rural districts, will naturally ask; a grand hall for instrumental concerts (these to be given every day when the hall is not otherwise occupied), operatic occasions, monster musical jubilees or dramatic anniversaries or commemorative performances and any great public gatherings; smaller halls, where agriculture and science could be made popular by a judicious selection of lectures; the whole to be under a board of managers, who would be liberal in arranging the schedule of prices for exhibition or admission, so as to make it emphatically the people's exchange. In addition to the above, there should be a system of prizes, medals and honors, for which exhibitors could compete, and last, but by no means least, the structure should be located in the most accessible and salubrious spot to be obtained, even if it had to be largely paid for.

Can such a broad and comprehensible plan be carried out here? or, rather, is it likely to be? for anything can be done here which has been or can be done elsewhere. It is satisfactory to know that the project is not only feasible, but probable. A charter has been granted by the Legislature, which confers sufficient power upon an "Industrial Com-

pany" to enable them to carry out something such a programme as we have here sketched. The charter is for fifty years, "and thereafter, unless repealed," and the capital is \$7,000,000. It remains to be seen whether the incorporators have any adequate idea of what is due from them to the city of New York (and not this city alone, but the whole country, of which this is the metropolis) in return for such ample authority. These incorporators are to hold their first election of officers in a few days. Will they be wise enough to choose men of broad views, of quick apprehension of the public needs, of strict integrity and of skillful energy, who will be vigorous in executing the provisions of their charter? There has never been a more splendid opportunity for any body of men to make themselves benefactors of the city than this. Not even the conception and execution of the Park plan was more promising of beneficial results, provided always that the men in charge have the experience, the tact and the nerve to improve the opportunity.

As to the financial success of any such undertaking in this city, there can be no question. No people spend money more freely for what is really good than our own. As we exceed even the Parisians themselves in our expenditure for pleasure, and hold no tighter to a dollar than the English do to a shilling, we can make of the Industrial Exhibition a more brilliant financial success than even the World's Fair of 1851 or the Paris Exhibition of 1867. This part of the question we propose to treat more at length at another time. The *Herald* will keep its readers advised of the progress of this great enterprise, and show our business men how their interest lies in urging it to successful fruition.

[From the *New York Times*, April 17th, 1870.]

A CRYSTAL PALACE FOR NEW YORK.

Those who know what the Crystal Palace at Sydenham has done for London, often wish that a similar structure, or rather a structure for similar objects, might be built near New York. A place of unexceptionable amusement, easy of access and open every day in the week; a place where plenty of space, light and flowers can be enjoyed in all weathers, and good refreshments obtained at fair prices; a place big enough for monster festivals of every sort, and in which concerts of good instrumental music might be listened to, morning and afternoon, with an occasional performance by operatic or other first-rate vocalists, would be, we conceive, better appreciated and better patronized at New York than at any city in the world.

During our long, hard Winters and tedious Springs, such a place would be a blessing indeed. None can tell, save they who have experienced it, the delight of wandering, during a bleak, inhospitable day in January, through long lines of fragrant trees and flowers, amid the singing of birds and splashing of fountains, while breathing an atmosphere free and pure, but tempered to the genial warmth of Summer. The entertainments given at the Palace have been of the most varied description. Two instrumental concerts have been supplied on all ordinary days, by a band that has become famous for its excellence. Opera concerts have been frequent, and "mammoth" performances of great musical works have been presented, surpassing any ever given elsewhere. There have

been circuses, balloons and fireworks in the grounds. The annual fete of the Dramatic College has been held there, and the celebrations and gatherings of innumerable other societies and tradesmen's guilds. In short, almost all the shows that involved the probable gathering of great numbers of people have found in the huge glass house suitable accommodation, and helped to pay its expenses. The amount of healthful recreation that has been taken in the building and its beautiful grounds is hardly to be calculated; and if only for the innocent pleasure thus afforded to tens of thousands of children, the Palace has certainly not existed in vain.

Such a building near New York would do great good. It would be serviceable to trade, because it would help to attract merchants and their families from all parts of the country, and it would turn into the channels of unobjectionable and instructive diversion much of the pleasure-loving spirit that now finds vent in rowdy beer gardens, tipsy picnics, and other forms of dissipation. It would be of assistance to art, because it would afford another field for the display and reward of talent, and, if well conducted, it might be of vast assistance to the popular taste, through the presentation, as we see them at Suydenham, of models of the best existing statuary, and as we do *not* see them at Suydenham, of a good gallery of pictures. We are told there is to be such an establishment. The money, it is said, has been subscribed to the extent of \$7,000,000—a sum which ought to be ample. There are plenty of spots quite as accessible from New York as Upper Norwood is from London, among which to select an eligible site. Let us have a Crystal Palace by all means. The idea is a capital one, and there is much to encourage confidence in its pecuniary success.

[From the New York Tribune, April 21, 1870.]

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

A bill was passed yesterday by the Assembly to incorporate the New York "Industrial Exhibition Company." It is of interest to know what is proposed by the incorporators. We have had one Crystal Palace; London has had her World's Fair, and has the Suydenham Palace; Dublin had an International Exhibition, and Paris the Universal Exposition. All of these, save one, were temporary; the exception proves that such an exhibition, rightly managed, may be of continual benefit. If those who have now received authority to establish a perpetual exhibition of arts and sciences in this city will combine the good features of all those which have gone before, they may benefit the public as well as themselves. That there is room and need here for such an exhibition there is no question. As the representative city of the nation, New York should have a continual exhibition, to be alike an index to what had been accomplished in agriculture, in art, and in science, and a stimulant to further effort and invention. As a matter of dollars and cents, New York would find a profit in urging such a project as this to speedy consummation. It would put money into the purses of her business men by its influence in attracting visitors. The Royal Commissioners who reported upon the World's Fair in London, in 1851, placed the number of visitors to that exhibition at more than 6,000,000, although the Fair was open only from May 1 to October 15. The profits of the exhibition were more than 200,000 pounds sterling, while the amount

disbursed in the city by visitors must have greatly exceeded what they spent at the Palace itself. The Central Park has done good service, and such an Industrial Exhibition as may be made under this charter—if those having the work in hand are sagacious enough to do the right thing in the right way—will be not less important and beneficial.

[From the New York Tribune, May 11, 1870.]

THE PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER—THE EXHIBITION TO OPEN IN 1872—ITS PROBABLE CHARACTER AND SUCCESS—A GREAT UNDERTAKING.

The Royal Commissioners of the World's Fair of 1851 have proposed to hold in London a series of annual international exhibitions of specimens of art and industry, beginning in 1871. Their plan does not embrace the covering of the entire range of useful or ornamental articles in any one year, but rather the admission to exhibition and competition each year of certain classes of goods which have been passed upon by judges before hand.

Another international exhibition is proposed in Vienna, 1873, the building to be erected upon the Prater. The cost of the building is estimated at 3,800,000 florins, the other expenses at 2,000,000 florins, and the receipts at 3,350,000 florins, the proposal being made that the State shall make up the deficiency. It is doubtful, however, if this proposition will be accepted by the Government.

The ambitious Washingtonians also want an international exhibition, and try to have the project adopted by the Government, and, of course, the design is to have any deficiency in receipts made up by an appropriation bill. But aside from the objections to any such expense, Washington has no advantage as a locality, for such an enterprise, save the single fact that it is the seat of the National Government. It has not people enough to support such an exhibition, nor accommodation for one-tenth of the visitors which its sanguine shopkeepers expect. Only one line of railroad reaches it from the region whence the bulk of visitors must come, if at all. Aside from the Government buildings there is nothing to especially interest sight-seers, except the Washington monument and the equestrian monstrosity in Lafayette square.

It is evident that New York is the only place in the United States where any such exhibition could properly take place. We say this in no spirit of antagonism to Washington, but simply as a natural conclusion from the facts. They are so evident that argument upon them would be superfluous, and in view of them it is a matter worthy special mention, that there is now an organized movement to establish in this city an industrial exhibition, which shall exceed all its predecessors. We made brief note at the time of its passage by the Legislature of a bill incorporating "The New York Industrial Exhibition Company," and propose now to regard it a little more in detail.

The charter authorizes the Company above named to purchase real estate and erect thereon suitable buildings to be used for an Industrial Exhibition. The capital stock shall be \$7,000,000, divided into 70,000 shares of \$100 each. The affairs of the Company shall be managed by a board or fifty-two Directors, to be annually elected, except the first

Board, who shall hold office until the whole of the capital shall have been subscribed and paid, and the building constructed.

To provide funds for carrying out the plan, the Company may loan money and issue bonds as security therefor. The first Board of Directors may name a Board of Regents, not to exceed ten to each State and Territory in the United States, and also a Board of Regents for such other countries as may propose to exhibit wares in the building. The building to be erected must be fire-proof and of solid masonry.

The authority conferred is especially broad and liberal. We are informed that nearly or quite all the immense capital has already been subscribed by bankers and leading business men, whose names mean cash as well as influence. The meeting of the incorporators for the election of officers takes place in a few days, and vigorous measures are contemplated. It is intended to have the building ready for occupancy in 1872. The incorporators certainly have here a great opportunity. A vast amount of good or evil may be done in 50 years with a capital of \$7,000,000. It is proposed to make the exhibition a grand combination of the best features of the exhibitions of modern times. There are to be galleries of paintings and halls of statuary; mechanical and scientific departments, where all the most useful inventions will be upon exhibition and in operation; agricultural and horticultural departments, where all available products of our own or other countries will be displayed; conservatories of rare domestic and foreign plants and flowers; an immense public hall for concerts, festivals or great public occasions; smaller halls for lectures upon art, science and literature; all industry and invention to be stimulated by prizes, medals and diplomas; salesrooms for a great commercial and art exchange; the building to be of a character which will do honor to the city and the country, and the whole to be subject to a liberal scale of exhibition and admission prices, so as to make it, in all respects, the people's resort for entertainment and instruction. If such a scheme is carried out by men of keen appreciation of the public wants, of just discrimination in the appointment of Regents, judges and juries, of energy in pushing the work to successful operation and in keeping interest in it alive, by careful changes and additions from time to time, then the enterprise may prove of vast benefit to our city, and to art and manufactures throughout the country.

In one respect this exhibition will differ from any that has preceded it—that of permanency. It is proposed to make it perpetual—open alike in Summer and in Winter—an international and cosmopolitan bazar, whose doors are ever open; whose exhibitors shall come and go like the merchants upon the streets, and through whose gates the human tide will ebb and flow as continuously as through Broadway.

Can a perpetual exhibition, requiring an admission fee, be successful? The probabilities are favorable. New York sustains any well-managed public amusement. With one million of people upon Manhattan Island, another million clustered around it in suburban cities and towns, and forty millions who look to New York as their representative city, the grand depot of their goods, and the place where almost every man, woman and child is willing to spend money in viewing its greatness and its entertainments, there can be but little doubt that such an exhibition would be amply supported from January to December. As an attraction designed to bring more people to New York than now, and to keep them here one, two, or seven days longer than they would otherwise remain, the great mass who here find a livelihood and a profit by ministering to

the wants of their fellow-men would be directly interested in its success, and the scheme would thus have a hundred thousand hearty advocates throughout. Citizens and visitors would find within its walls the same attraction of verdure, of flowers, of music, and of pervading beauty, which they now seek in Central Park, but which is in great measure denied to them there during three or four months of the year. They would find, also, such additional attractions as would render necessary repeated visits so that the whole could be fairly inspected.

Other exhibitions, similar in date, have been uniformly successful. France has had no less than thirteen Official Expositions, from 1798, when Marquis d'Avize conceived and carried out an exhibition of objects of the industry of the national manufactures at St. Cloud, down to that which covered 35 acres of the Champ de Mars in 1867, all of which have been successfully attended, to say nothing of their influence upon trade and manufactures. The World's Fair, in London in 1851, was open 141 days from May 1, when it attracted 25,000 spectators. During that time 6,000,135 visits were made, 109,915 persons having been in the building in one day (October 7). The receipts were about \$2,530,500, and the expenses, \$1,463,760: the average daily receipts being \$12,740. At the Suydenham Palace there have been 55,000 visits in a single day, and audiences of 30,000 at some of the concerts there held have not been uncommon.

The conveniences of access by rail and boat to New York, and the abundance of hotels for the accommodation of strangers (in which we are notably in advance of London or Paris) must be considered as elements in its success. All commendation of this scheme is, of course, based upon supposition that its management will be wise and honorable. Any other condition would rightfully condemn the project from the start. Where such an exhibition can best be located in or about New York is a serious question. It must be easily accessible to be successful, or to answer the condition of tempting the mass of the people. It must have pleasant surroundings, or the approaches would deter many from a second if not a first visit. The question of locality will not be the least important and difficult which the Directors will meet in the course of their arduous but self-imposed duties.

[From the New York Evening Mail, May 11, 1870.]

NEW YORK INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

AN INTERNATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE—
THE SUYDENHAM PALACE OF THE NEW WORLD.

The project of establishing in this city a grand Industrial Exhibition, which shall combine the best features of those of London, Paris and Dublin, with such improvements and additions as the progress of ideas make desirable, is attracting considerable attention. Much has been said in art circles of a proposed Art Museum in New York; the American Institute has given us, yearly, creditable exhibitions for a limited period, and we have our Academy of Design. But these (even if the first is carried to execution, which is by no means certain as yet) do not fill the measure of what we need, nor of what we may rightfully boast of, if the provisions of the charter granted by the late Legislature to the "Industrial Company" are properly made use of.

To say the least, this enterprise gives assurance of vitality in the amount of capital already subscribed by leading business men, and in the fact that the first election of officers is to take place this week, after which we are promised a vigorous campaign, looking to decisive victory for industrial art.

The charter obtained is liberal to the incorporators, and so increases at once their power for great and beneficial results, and their responsibility to give us something far above any mere pecuniary speculation. With a capital of seven million dollars, and fifty years in which to develop their programme, the gentlemen who have the project in hand ought to establish and worthily support an institution which shall be one of the noblest features of New York. We say they should not only establish it, but support it, for it seems to us that there can be no question as to the pecuniary support of such a plan by the public, provided the managers are shrewd and diligent enough to make the plan as attractive and valuable as they will have it in their power to do. They must, therefore, so wisely govern their enterprise as to make it sure of success.

As we understand the design, it is to carry out fully the authority of that section of the charter which says that the company may "purchase and hold such real estate as may be necessary, and to construct thereon such buildings as may be necessary for the maintenance and carrying on of the business of exhibiting the products, goods, wares and merchandise, machinery, mechanical inventions and improvements of every nature, name and kind, * * * and to award and pay to exhibitors therein such prizes and medals and honorary distinctions as they shall deem proper, and to lease, let, or own stalls, stands, rooms, and places in said building or buildings, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors shall deem best for the interests of said company, and for the promotion of science, art, commerce, and literature. And the said company is hereby further authorized to construct studios and picture galleries, and to exhibit their pictures and statuary, * * and to award such prizes for the creation of the same as the Board of Directors may deem proper; and generally said corporation shall have power to carry on in its said buildings, erected for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, all legal and proper business."

Fifty-two Directors shall constitute the Managing Board, and a Board of Regents may be appointed for each State. The building must be fireproof.

It will be seen that under this authority the Company may institute an international exchange, with daily increasing attractions; may stimulate invention by holding open a perpetual reward for what is especially worthy; may organize a corps of officials the range of whose operations covers the entire country (and not this country alone, but all others whose producers or manufacturers wish to compete) and who will thus be enabled to consider intelligently the entire industrial world; may be to the entire farming community what the most skilfully and judiciously managed agricultural fair is to the locality where it is held; may give us what we have not yet had in New York, a superb collection of painting and statuary, always accessible to the public; may construct and fill conservatories of rare plants and flowers, to which year after year will add richness and chosen variety; may, in short, combine in one grand whole all the best forms of intellectual entertainment and refined amusement.

What the Suydenham Palace is to London this exhibition should be to New York. It has been truly said that, with the exception of the

Central Park, we have no place which can be commended as a general public resort. But, even at the Park, much is wanting which may be supplied in the proposed exhibition, and, at its best, the Park is not available as a place of recreation during the Winter months. There need, however, be no rivalry between the two enterprises. New York has need of them both, and both will do their good work for the city in attracting visitors, and in teaching them lessons of beauty and utility.

The Directors of the Industrial Company need to have rare tact, energy and intelligence, to see what is wanted, and to keep the enterprise free from any cause of reproach, while they push the project to a speedy consummation. Great latitude is allowed them by the charter in arranging the details of the exhibition. Their building should be well located, with attractive surroundings, and easily reached from the business and dwelling parts of the city. The edifice should be ample, not only for present needs, but to accommodate the prospective throng of exhibitors and visitors during many coming years, and it should be of imposing and tasteful architectural proportions. Care will need to be taken in deciding upon the terms of admission and of competition, and cordial co-operation with leading minds in the various walks of literature, art, science and trade, can only be secured by the exercise of unassailable integrity throughout the whole course of preliminary negotiation and subsequent operations.

There is every reason for full faith that an international industrial exhibition such as is now proposed in New York, will be abundantly patronized so long as it shows itself worthy of support. It is to be hoped that nothing will occur to prevent a propitious opening in 1872, and a continual success for half a century thereafter,

[From the New York Sun, April 21, 1870.]

A PERPETUAL WORLD'S FAIR.—The Assembly yesterday passed the bill incorporating the New York Industrial Exhibition Company, which had previously passed the Senate. From this beginning we are likely to see important and beneficial results. We understand that the leading parties in the enterprise are men of capital, experience and energy, who mean to establish a perpetual World's Fair, which shall be an honor to the Empire City, and a powerful promoter of arts and manufactures. There is certainly room for such a project here. The Suydenham Palace is a hint of what may be kept in constant and successful operation in New York. When the Exhibition of 1851 opened in London, 25,000 persons participated in the opening, and more than six million individual visits were made during the 141 days of its continuance. If the New York Industrial Company erect spacious, substantial and elegant buildings, in an accessible and desirable location, use liberality and discretion in arranging the schedule of prizes and medals, and put the prices of admission and competition within the reach of all, they may be sure of a profitable return for themselves, while giving to the city one of its strongest attractions.

[From the New York Standard, May 4, 1870.]

The Charter granted by the late Legislature, incorporating the New York Industrial Exhibition Company, is broad enough to give us hope

that the enterprise will be an honorable institution, worthy the Empire City. In the first place, the capital stock is to be no less than seven million dollars (\$7,000,000). This is large enough to cover a grand and liberal industrial exhibition, which will be a constant stimulus to American science and art, and a notable attraction to our city. The charter gives time enough for the Board of fifty-two Directors and the State Regents to develop something which shall be as irremovable as the choicest and amplest art-galleries of foreign lands. 'The building to be erected must be fireproof and of solid masonry.' This is a wise provision. For any such institution as aspires to rank with the Crystal Palace of 1851, the Suydenham Palace, or the Kensington Museum, no makeshift of an edifice will satisfy either exhibitors or visitors. What New York needs is a place of resort open alike Summer and Winter, where will always be found a collection of paintings and statuary far in advance of anything of the kind which has ever been opened to the public; a complete museum of all the valuable mechanical and scientific inventions, a conservatory of native and foreign fruits, flowers and cereals, and a perpetual bazar of international industry, and all open alike to competition and inspection, upon such a scale of prices as will welcome all classes of contributors and spectators, while yielding a profitable return to the proprietors. All this may be accomplished under the charter, if the incorporators elect managers who have a just idea of the opportunity now placed in their hands.

[From the *New York World*, April 23, 1870.]

* * * If the plans are judiciously executed, there seems to be no reason why the enterprise may not be a continued success—valuable alike to the city and its proprietors. The people of no city respond more readily to any just appeal to their support, and the floating population of New York alone, would richly sustain such a place of resort as it is promised this shall be.





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